Amendments to the Specification:

Page 1, before line 3, the paragraph beginning with "The invention pertains" insert the following titles:

-- BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1.   Field of the Invention:--.

Page 1, before line 6, the paragraph beginning with "Imprecise and/or" insert the following title:

2.   Description of the Related Art:--.

Page 3, before line 16, the paragraph beginning with "The invention is", insert the following title:

-- SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION --.

Please replace the paragraph on page 3, beginning on line 16, with the following amended paragraphs as follows:

-- The problem is solved by a process ~~with the features of Claims 1 and 9.~~ for the automatic rectification of images, wherein at least one image is rectified by a mapping function onto a reference image, and at least some parameters of the mapping function are unknown. The process includes steps of extracting at least three objects from the image; determining at least three control points in the image, such that characteristic object points of the extracted objects are determined as control points; assigning the objects to objects in the reference image, such that assignment is made according to similarity between corresponding objects in the two images

and/or on the basis of a vector grid formed by connections between the characteristic object points; and selecting a suitable mapping function and/or adjusting parameters of the mapping function, whereby the mapping function is changed by changing the parameters in such a way that cumulative error in positional differences between control points and corresponding points in the reference image is minimized.

The problem is further solved by a device for performing the aforesaid steps. The device includes an extraction module for extracting at least three objects from the image; a control point determination module for determining at least three control points in the image, wherein characteristic points of the extracted objects are determined as control points; an object assignment module for assigning the objects to objects in the reference image, such that a correspondence between the objects in the two images is established according to at least one of a similarity between objects, a vector grid formed by connecting characteristic object points, and a selection module. The correspondence is established for at least one of selecting a suitable mapping function and adjusting parameters of the mapping function, whereby the mapping function is changed by changing the parameters in such a way that cumulative error in positional differences between control points and corresponding points in the reference image is minimized.

Additional advantageous embodiments of the invention ~~can be derived from the subclaims~~ are apparent from other preferred embodiments of the invention, described herein below. --

Page 9, before line 20, the paragraph beginning with "The invention is", insert the following title and paragraph:

-- <u>BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS</u> --.

Page 10, before line 11, the paragraph beginning with "Referring now to", insert the following title:

-- <u>DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENTLY PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS</u> --.

Page 16, before line 1, the paragraph beginning with "1. Process for", insert the following paragraph:

--<u>What is claimed is:</u>"--.

Please delete the abstract and replace it with the abstract attached hereto on a separate page.